

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03918 220354Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 /016 W  
-----220420Z 033002 /62  
R 220334Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6293

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR EA/J, W. SHERMAN; OES, DR. GANLEY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: TSPA, JA  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF NASA OFFICIALS TO ATTEND THE FIFTH INTER-  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ORIGIN OF LIFE (ICOL)

REF: (A) TOKYO A-393, DEC. 1, 1976;  
(B) 76 TOKYO 16791;  
(C) 76 TOKYO 17635

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT THREE OFFICIALS FROM NASA WILL COME TO JAPAN TO ATTEND AND SPEAK AT SUBJECT CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN KYOTO, APRIL 5-10. THEY ARE; DR. GERALD A. SOFFEN, JPL, DR. RICHARD S. YOUNG, OFFICE OF SPACE SCIENCE AND DR. GILBERT V. LEVIN, NASA. DR. YOUNG IS ALSO SECRETARY OF ORGANIZATION SPONSORING CONFERENCE, INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR STUDY OF ORIGIN OF LIFE (ISSOL).

2. FOLLOWING HIS ATTENDANCE AT KYOTO CONFERENCE, DR. YOUNG IS SCHEDULED TO DELIVER TALK IN TOKYO ON APRIL 12 TO A GROUP OF JAPANESE DIGNITARIES. THIS SECOND ADDRESS HAS BEEN ARRANGED BY DR. SEIJI YUASA, JAPANESE SECRETARY FOR ISSOL, ACTING ON BEHALF OF JAPAN SCIENCE SOCIETY (JSS). JSS IS PROVIDING FUNDS TO ISSOL  
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TO PAY FOR KYOTO CONFERENCE. REPAIR AND REFTTEL (C) GIVE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON JSS AND ITS CONTROVERSIAL PRESIDENT RYOICHI SASAKAWA.

3. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT JSS HAS RECEIVED PROMISE OF LOAN OF SEVERAL PIECES OF NASA HARDWARE AND SPACECRAFT INCLUDING SATURN V ROCKET FOR DISPLAY IN TOKYO. ITEMS REPORTEDLY WILL BE DISPLAYED

AS PART OF SPACE SCIENCE EXHIBIT MOUNTED BY JSS IN FALL OF 1977 OR SPRING, 1978. DR. YUASA, AGAIN ACTING ON BEHALF OF JSS, TRAVELLED TO U.S. IN NOVEMBER 1976 TO REQUEST LOAN OF THESE ITEMS (SEE REFTEL B). EMBASSY SOURCE INDICATES THAT ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON EXHIBIT WILL BE SENT TO JAPAN IN LATE SUMMER OR FALL AND ALL SHIPPING COSTS WILL BE BORNE BY JSS. (COSTS ESTIMATED AT U.S. \$1 MILLION).

4. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE VERIFICATION OF REPORTED LOAN OF NASA ITEMS IF POSSIBLE. SINCE OTHER REQUESTS FOR NASA MATERIAL FROM LESS CONTROVERSIAL GROUPS HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY REFUSED IN PAST, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW REASONING BEHIND NASA DECISION TO SUPPORT SPACE SCIENCE EXHIBIT IF SUCH IS CASE. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW IF NASA REPS WILL BE ATTENDING KYOTO CONFERENCE IN OFFICIAL CAPACITY AND IF THEY WILL REQUIRE EMBASSY ASSISTANCE WHILE IN JAPAN.

5. FACT THAT JSS IS GIVEN NASA MATERIALS WHEN OTHER GOJ OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES HAVE BEEN REFUSED IN PAST MAY REDOUND TO EMBARRASS USG. WHILE NOT WISHING TO POISON WELL FOR JSS PROJECT, EMBASSY BELIEVES DEPT MAY WISH TO REVIEW QUESTION OF NASA PARTICIPATION IN THIS EXHIBIT TO ENSURE BEST INTERESTS OF USG ARE MET.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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